

Office. Whether their recommendations are accepted or not, they must go on record in history, and commend themselves to all reasonable minded people as being practical, humane, and enlightened. We believe their suggestions will not be without effect, and that the War Office, while at present turning them down, may, later on, adopt them as its own device. Have we not all known this to happen more than once? We do not mean only in war, but in all kinds of affairs. There are critics who would seem almost to prefer having abuses continue than to have reforms suggested by women, and articles have appeared in the English Press directed against the British Matrons, the tone of which is quite incomprehensible to us, who see in their action only timely professional intelligence and high moral courage.—Ed.”

Miss Sophia F. Palmer, who for the past five years has been the able Superintendent of the Rochester City Hospital, U.S.A., has resigned her position. For the future Miss Palmer intends to devote herself to the editorship of the *American Journal of Nursing*.

### Women and the Poor Law.

At the annual meeting of the Society for Promoting the Return of Women as Poor Law Guardians, the Hon. Secretary (Miss Bramston) stated that 292 unions are still unrepresented by women. We are glad to see that Miss Louisa Twining, that veteran pioneer in Workhouse Nursing Reform, said that a sub-department of the Local Government Board for Poor Law work, and the supervision of the nursing system in infirmaries were absolutely necessary.

Miss Clifford (Bristol) and Mrs. Pearsall Smith also urged the election of women guardians. The Earl of Meath said that in Ireland it was by no means uncommon to lock epileptics in the same room with lunatics, and it was only quite recently that knives and forks were allowed in Irish workhouses. Babies got the same rations in many cases as adults.

### Sketches.

**MEDICAL PRACTITIONER** (to patient's wife): "Be very careful as to his diet, keep up his strength, and give him some oysters and champagne this evening."

**NEXT VISIT**: "Well, how is our patient? Did he enjoy the champagne and oysters?"

**WIFE**: "Well, not exactly, sir. You see champagne is expensive, and oysters are hard to get; but I did my best and gave him a good supper of ginger-pop and hot cockles."

### Nursing Echoes.

\* \* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



WE are informed that Lady Sarah Wilson and the following Nursing Sisters are to receive the war medal which was recently bestowed by the King on officers and men who had served in South Africa. Sisters A. Nixon, D. D. Tripp, C. K. E. Steet, L. E. V. Asman, K. L. T. Babb, A. A. Bowles, M. A. C. Grant, B. M. Hoare, I. S. Lambe, C. M. Theophilus, K. Ward, J. E. Skillman, A. B. Redstone (New Zealand), B. Huston (Queensland), A. B. Stephenson (Australian Nursing Service). The well-deserved recognition of the services of nurses in the war is opportune, and we hope that the presentation of these medals will be made the occasion of a public ceremony.

At the festival dinner of the Westminster Hospital, at which the Duke of Buccleuch presided, Sir John Wolfe Barry (chairman of the House Committee) said that the "reputation of the Westminster nurses stood higher than that of any other nurses in London." We are glad that the nurses should have their meed of praise, but the remark strikes us as a little trite. We attend a good many hospital meetings in the course of a year, and experience has taught us to listen for this platitude on every occasion. It is not so long since we attended a function at the London Hospital, and heard the remark that the "London" nurses were "the best in the Metropolis," and the reply (proving the abysmal ignorance of the speaker), "Oh, yes, I believe the nurses of all the other hospitals acknowledge that," just as if nurses in any hospital have ever been known to admit the superiority of their colleagues in any other institution whatsoever.

After all there is a good deal of ignorance and conceit in invariably considering ourselves the best trained nurses in the world, and ignorance and conceit are insuperable barriers to progress. A little discontent is a very wholesome quality. Would it not be wiser, and kinder, if our well wishers, while acknowledging our virtues—and we

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